

From: [repepi](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: No religious exemptions for coverage of women's preventive health care services
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 10:34:16 PM

To whom it may concern at the Department of Health and Human Services:

I join with the [American Association of University Women \(AAUW\)](#) in asking you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine as pertains to coverage of preventive care under the new health care law, and to reject any exemptions for "religious employers." These preventive services are a critical element of the new law and would provide countless women better access to necessary health care. They are also likely to reduce costs and are medical practices independent of religion or world view.

While AAUW believes that "religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services, others, driven by an ideological distaste for all contraceptive services, are pushing the government to make exemptions even larger. Indeed, some groups are pushing for the exemption to apply to religiously-run health providers, so hospitals with religious affiliations would be exempt from the coverage requirement, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies. If granted, this larger exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work.

I urge you to ensure women that have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations, which are reasonable, and rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.

Sincerely,
R. Pepi